

Frome Urban District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer for the Year ending 31st Dec., 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the Frome Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to submit the Report for the year 1920.

It is satisfactory to record that there had not been any vast amount of sickness, nor had there been any serious outbreaks of epidemic infectious disease, in the district, and equally is it worthy of notice that, with the healthy standard of the inhabitants, and the return of the men after their military service and training in robust and healthy vigour, and in spite of the industrial condition and high cost of living, there is a great increase in the number of births, which is far in excess of previous years, while of the total number of deaths, a greater number were of persons over 45 years of age, and of this number organic heart disease and cancer were the chief causes of death.

The following are the general remarks on the natural and social conditions of the district.

As stated in previous reports, the geological structure of the district consists of oolite and alluvium, while that of the deeper basin, constituting the sources of the water supply of the town, is of carboniferous limestone.

Population.—Estimated to the middle of 1920, 10,648.

The total acreage of the district is 1,214 acres, and the total number of inhabited houses is 3,200, which makes an average of 3.4 persons per house.

The chief industries of the inhabitants are textile, art metal, rubber manufacturing, printing, brewing and engineering.

Sanitary Administration.—The staff comprise one Sanitary Inspector and an Assistant.

The Water Supply of the town as hitherto is well maintained and of excellent quality.

Drainage and Closet Accommodation.—The district is sewered throughout, and, with the exception of a few isolated houses on the outskirts, all the houses are connected with the town system.

The sewage is treated at the Sewage Outfall Works, through septic tanks and fine grain percolating filters.

Scavenging.—The domestic refuse is collected by the Council's workmen from the town weekly and conveyed to the refuse destructor, where it is used in generating the steam required for pumping the sewage to the purification works.

Slaughter Houses.—The total number of registered slaughter houses in the district is six and one licensed. These have been periodically inspected, and all were found fairly satisfactory.

Bakehouses.—The total number of bakehouses, 18.

Milk Supply.—There are 18 registered dairy-men and milk sellers, 11 of whom keep their own cows.

Housing.—(1) The number of dwelling houses of all classes is 3,200.

(2) The number of working-class dwelling houses, 2,121.

(3) Number of working-class houses erected, none.

(4) By private enterprise (whether subsidised or not), none.

(5) New houses in hand, January 1st, 1921, but not erected, five.

(6) Plans passed for new houses, 33.

Buildings commenced but not completed.—The Council are now proceeding with the erection of houses in Nunney Road, for which a loan has been sanctioned.

Factories and Workshops.—Various factories, including bakehouses, 55. One factory was inspected, of which written notice was given.

Defects found in Factories, etc., under the Public Health Acts were six, which are all now remedied.

Hospital Accommodation.—There is a combined Hospital and Nurses' Home, which is maintained by voluntary contributions, and during the year the townspeople had associated themselves with the County Scheme, and have now two nurses from the Queen's Nursing Association, who are doing valuable and beneficent work.

Tuberculosis Clinique and Dispensary.—The County had established a Dispensary, which has supplied a long-felt want in discovering following up, and general control of "infects," and in the treatment of the juvenile population.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—This Centre is also doing excellent work in following up expectant mothers, besides the care and attention devoted to mothers and infants.

Isolation Hospital.—As stated in my previous Report, an annexe of two wards has been erected, which is in all respects ample to cope with any emergency. In the treatment of diphtheria, antitoxin is supplied by the Local Authority, as well as all expenses incurred, in bacteriological examinations.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year (exclusive of tuberculosis) was 23.

The following is a list of the infectious diseases :—

					Removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria	..	..	9	..	4
Scarlet Fever	..	..	3	..	1
Erysipelas	..	..	6	..	0
Pneumonia	..	..	5	..	0
Total	..	..	23	..	5
Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified	..	..	..	..	19
Other Tubercular Varieties	..	..	..	..	3
Total	..	..	..	..	22

Vital Statistics, Infant Mortality, etc.—The total number of births registered, 215—males 104; females, 111.

The Birth-rate, 20.19; and Rate of Infant Mortality, 79.06.

There were 17 deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year, as against 12 in 1919 :—

Premature Birth and Malassimilation	15
Intestinal Obstruction	1
Whooping Cough	1
	—
	17

The following is a tabular statement of the infant mortality :—

Deaths under One Year.

Under one week	6
One to four weeks (inclusive) ..	6
One month to six months	3
Six months to 12 months	2
	—
Total	17

The total number of deaths from all causes during the year, after correction for inward and outward transfer, was 116, viz., males, 47 : females, 69.

The following is a classification, according to age and sex distribution, of the causes of death :

	Males.	Females.
Measles	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	4
Diphtheria and Croup	1	—
Influenza	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	8	10
Rheumatic Fever	1	—
Meningitis	1	1
Organic Heart Disease	9	12
Bronchitis	—	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	2

	Males.	Females.
Diarrhœa, etc. (under two years)	—	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..	1	—
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	—	1
Congenital Debility, etc.	4	2
Violence, apart from suicide	2	2
Suicide	1	—
Other defined Diseases	13	25
	—	—
Total	47	69

Under one year	17
From 1 to 5 years	5
„ 5 „ 15 „	2
„ 15 „ 25 „	1
„ 25 „ 45 „	6
„ 45 „ 65 „	24
Sixty-five and upwards	61

Total	116
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The following table is a comparison of the principal causes of death in the years 1919 and 1920 :—

	1919.	1920.
Influenza	20	1
Cancer	13	18
Tuberculosis	8	13
Organic Heart Disease	28	21
Bronchitis	12	2
Pneumonia and other Respiratory ..	15	5
Other Defined Diseases	63	38

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to thank you and all the officers associated with me for the cordial sympathy and unfailing courtesy you have always extended to me.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

ALBIN SEDDON.

Public Offices, Frome,
March 21st, 1921,

Frome Urban District
Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer

For the Year 1920.
